

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 966

By Coley

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Lieutenant Commander Tracy Glen DeWitt, United States Navy, retired of Arlington.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Lieutenant Commander Tracy Glen Dewitt, United States Navy, Retired; and

WHEREAS, a former officer in the United States Navy, Lieutenant Commander DeWitt was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, after graduating from Gravette High School in 1983, Tracy DeWitt enlisted in the United States Navy, where he had a distinguished career and performed with the utmost skill and bravery. Before he retired in 2007, he fought in the Northern Arabian Gulf during Operation Desert Fox in 1999 as Navigator of the USS *Stout*, conducted counter-narcotics operations in Central and South America, served as Combat Systems Officer on the USS *Thomas Gates*, and spent three years at the Naval Personnel Command in Millington, Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, during his tenure with the Navy, Lieutenant Commander DeWitt also graduated from Auburn University in 1994, earned a master's degree from Troy University in 2001, and began work toward a Ph.D. in Management at North Central University; and

WHEREAS, Tracy DeWitt was an adjunct graduate school professor for the University of Arkansas and the director of operations for Arkansas Delta Wired at Mid-South Community College; and

WHEREAS, as further evidence of his steadfast commitment to serving his community and fellow countrymen, Lieutenant Commander DeWitt was involved in the Republican Party of Shelby County and served as President of the Northeast Shelby County Club; and

WHEREAS, Tracy DeWitt was an active and devout member of Ellendale Baptist Church, which he served faithfully for many years as an adult Sunday school teacher, a youth basketball coach, and a member of several church committees; and

WHEREAS, Lieutenant Commander DeWitt was also deeply devoted to his family, and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, Tracy DeWitt enjoyed the loving companionship of his wife of nineteen years, Gillis Michelle Holton DeWitt, and was the proud father of three sons, Tyler, Justin, and Andrew; and

WHEREAS, he is also survived by his twin brother, Terry Len DeWitt; his mother, Cheryl, and stepfather, Brian Emery; his stepmother, Betty DeWitt; and his grandmother, Jean Whitten Coffelt; and

WHEREAS, he was preceded in death by his father, Tracy Len DeWitt; and

WHEREAS, Lieutenant Commander DeWitt leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Lieutenant Commander Tracy Glen DeWitt, United States Navy, Retired, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Lieutenant Commander DeWitt.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.